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SPECIAL HANDLING

July 9, 1968

[redacted]

NOTE FOR GENERAL BERG:

Colonel [redacted] contact man with the special OSD review committee (cleared) on the 100th Strategic Reconnaissance Wing program (primarily [redacted]es, but some funds for SAC base U-2 support), has been [redacted]stions like "Who authorized the procurement of U-2R's? What was the basis for the requirements? "Where were the aircraft funded?" etc. I had told him before that if they raised questions on the U-2's, he should contact me, rather than to try to answer them. Accordingly, I asked Dr. Flax for guidance on 8 July, and his reaction was that they had the right to ask questions and make recommendations (a more liberal interpretation than mine—I feel that their responsibility should be limited to the 100th SRW cost coverage).

I have passed Dr. Flax' reaction on to Colonel [redacted] and he will tell the review committee to send their questions to Dr. Flax over General Carroll's signature. These may come in before I return from leave, so I told Dr. Flax I'd alert you and Frank Hartley.

I still feel that the answers should be like "Deputy Secretary Nitze, DCI Helms, and Mr. Hornig, as an Executive Committee, approved the U-2R Procurement. Secretary McNamara approved the aircraft allocation, based on a recommendation from Mr. Helms. Their basis for approval was to maintain a viable U-2 program. Funding is within the NRP program." etc.—generalities, rather than specifics, with enough to indicate the high level of consideration and approval. It may be that if they have to get General Carroll's signature, the questions will go away, or be limited to 100th SRW cost coverage.

The recent PCR for the 100th SRW goofed on the U-2 portion, in that no attrition was forecast thru FY 1974, and some FY 1970 and subsequent year increases were questionable. Rather than re-do the PCR, it was submitted as is, with qualifying footnotes, and Dr. Flax said he put qualifying remarks in a transmittal memo. OSD could be critical in this connection.

[redacted]
Comptroller

cc: Colonel Hartley

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SPECIAL HANDLING